MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1883.

Amusemente To-Day

Opera Moune-Virginia Mign Opera Monte - Virginia, Randh's Liberate - Moste Cristo. Brooklyn Park Theatre - Myrrood Police. Mig Indian Wigwam - Circe. Matiner. Bunnett's Ruseum - Drosiwys and St. St. Commopolitim Theatre - Priks in Irriand. Fifth Avenue Theatre-Counters Dobarry Glabe Sizes Masses — 19: Sovery. Gened Opers Messes—Joshua Whitemb. Bavesty's Theates—Stratement. Badison Square Theates—Youn He. Wintrep. Bount Morris Theater, Mariem-Miblo's Garden—The Black Yeaus. Now York Museum—116 Bowers. Novelty Theotre, Benchtyn, S. D.—The Highty Dalla Standard Theatre-Inlatthe. Theatre Conique McSurley's Inflation. Your Pastor's Theatre—Validy. The Control The Queen's Locy Randberchief.
Thenker Thentes King Locy.
The Niege of Paris bith st. and 7th av.

Calon Sunace Thentro-A Parisian Romance

The regular circulation of THE SUN for the recek ending Feb. 10, 1883, was:

Total for the week ...

The Signal Service Scandal.

Mr. BELTZHOOVER'S revelations concerning the Signal Service have made a sensation in and out of Congress. He has rendered valuable service, not only in exhibiting the enormous cost of this bureau, but also in bringing to light the discreditable methods employed to deceive both Congress and the country by manufactured sentiment pro cured under the personal direction of the Chief Signal Officer.

The real cost of the Signal Service has beretofore been concealed by various devices. The items have been advoitly scatter ed through several appropriation acts. A clause in the Sundry Civil law of the last session, inserted at the instance of Mr. BELTZHOOVER, required the Secretary of War to submit a detailed estimate of the officers and other employees needed for the service and of their compensation. Mr. Lin-COLN reported that the aggregate sum needed for the next fiscal year would be \$1,234,299. Add to this the various sum asked by the bureau for other purposes, and we have the total:

The Secretary's estimate. For office of Chief Signal Officer ... For buildings, Signal Office...

These figures exceed by half a million dellars the greatest total hitherto reached They show how, under the hothouse growth of professional, political, and social influences a bureau of small beginnings may suddenly expand into vast proportions.

Of this large sum only one-fifth, or about \$300,000, is to be used for meteorological purposes, which are the foundation and the object of the bureau. A million and a quarter go for the pay of officers and soldiers, buildings, and the machinery of a pompous milltary establishment. Five hundred and eightyfour enlisted men cost \$568,941, or \$974 each annually, and thirty-five officers cost \$126,186. or an average of \$3,605 each. The civil offi cers cost \$116,000.

It is no secret that persons are employed at large pay in this bureau who perform no legitimate duty. Their business is to praise the organization, to work up a fictitious opinion in its favor, and to daub the Chief Signal Officer with flattery. Since it has been proposed to transfer the service to the In terior Department, and to divest it of the form of a military organization, extraordinary and shameful means have been used to defeat the movement. Gen. HAZEN applied to the Secretary of War in the fall of 1881 for a detail of four officers to visit the principal cities "to look after certain commercial interests." He addressed the following letter to Capt. W. H. CLAPP, one of the officers on duty at the Signal Office:

"[Confidential.]

"CLAFF: flet word to Powers to work up our frien e four large cities, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, without regard to Srony's experter POWELL and STORY are members of the

Signal Corps. Again, HAZEN wrote: "CLAPF: Write Powers that the third section (of a bill men in the corps will come in first when they deserve it

as he certainly will. Also, that after visiting Philade phin to keep us informed, and when sime for actio comes I will have him come here, finishing his ton Acting under these instructions, Lieut.

POWELL visited Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Chicago, Indianapolis, Toledo, Erie, Buffalo, Rochester, Oswego, Albany, Portland, Boston, Newport, Springfield, New Haven, New York, and Philadelphia, his journey three months. Lieut. ALLEN and Lieut. Swift were sent in other directions, "to work up our friends." Their business was to procure resolutions from Boards of Trade, Chambers of Commerce, and other organizations, the resolutions being in fact prepared in Washington, and intended to influence opinion in Congress. HAZEN'S emissaries also wrote editorial articles for certain newspapers, with the same end in view.

This work was so successful that Lieut Powell expressed surprise "that certain organizations passed resolutions without knowing for what they were petitioning; but he added by way of explaination, "I tell you, Story, a bottle of wine and a dinner go a long way sometimes."

These and other officers were detached from regular duty, and all their expenses were paid from the appropriations for the Signal Service, while they were thus engaged in working up an artificial sentiment in favor

of the bureau and its chief. HOWGATE stole about \$150,000 in fifteen months without disturbing the routine operations of the service. Indeed, the annual reports in Howgate's time boasted of certain scientific improvements which must have been costly. It is evident that the appro priations must have been greatly excessive to have afforded a margin for Howgate's steal while the regular work went on without derangement.

When officers can be detailed for months at a time to fabricate commendatory resolutions, designed to affect legislation, it is plain that they are not needed in the Signal Corps When the money voted by Congress in the alleged interest of science is diverted to most questionable objects, it is also clear that the appropriations for the service are extravagantly large.

Very serious questions are suggested by this exposure. The first is whether, in attempting to influence legislation by such improper methods, Gen. HAZEN and his subate officers have not laid themselves open to trial by court martial for violating the army regulations. The second question is whether Gen. Hazars will himself demand a grossly unfair criticisms on the aims and

court of inquiry upon the charges made by

responsible member of Congress, who said "I neither sought nor want a quarrel with this mili-tary martinet, who is universally despised and losthed by every respectable soldier in the country; this Gen-eral without a battle; this soldier who compromised the charge of base and ignoble cowardice, and struts up

The Signal Office is an illustration of th system of bureau administration that has grown out of the corruption and extravagance prevalent at Washington ever since the flush days of Grantism.

Col. Tom Ochiltree's Salary.

One of the most remarkable results of the voting in November was the election of Col. THOMAS P. OCHILTREE to Congress from the Seventh district of Texas. Although this eminent citizen once held office under the Republican Administration of his friend Gen GRANT, he will go into the Forty-eighth Congress as an Independent. In all acce rately compiled lists of the members of the next House, Col. Ton OCHILTREE'S DATE stands large and bold in capital letters, as belits his national reputation. He will b untrammelied by party obligations; he will be able to serve country first of all; and his vigorous and interesting eratory, his great practical experience, and his weird imagina ion will be under the control of no caucus. It is unfortunate that a cloud should over

mang the otherwise bright future of Col. Tox OCHILIBRE in his new career as a legislator Yet such is the case.

Col. Tom OCHILTREE was United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Texas under GRANT, and, we regret to add, was short in his accounts with the Government to the extent of about \$19,000 The Government has never been able to recover this sum from Col. Tom OCHILTREE. It sued him, however, and ob tained judgment against him, two or three years ago, for the full amount with interest The chronic state of Col. Tom OCHILTREE' lnances has up to the present time rendered the judgment worthless. He still owes th United States about \$13,000.

Now, Col. Tom OCHILTREE's salary of \$5,000 year will begin on March 4. His annual al lowance for mileage will amount to a considerable sum, in view of the distance between Washington and his nominal home in Texas Besides salary and mileage, Col. OCHILTRE will be entitled to \$195 a year for stationer and newspapers. In the two years of hi term Col. Occurred will draw from th United States Treasury, through the Ser geant-at-Arms of the House, about \$12,000 in all, provided he is allowed to draw it.

There is a section of the Revised Statutes which says:

"No money shall be paid to any person for his con pensation who is in arrears to the United Status until le has accounted for and paid into the Treasury all sums for which he may be liable."

And an act, approved March 3, 1875, explicitly provides that When any claim, daily allowed by legal authority

shall be presented to the Secretary of the Treasury for payment, and the plaintiff or claimant be indebted to the United States in any manner, it shall be the duty of the ecretary to withhold payment."

Here, it will be perceived, is ample reason or anxiety, and even for excitement, on the part of a nature so impressionable as Col FOM OCHILTREE'S. We are not surprised to earn that he has already gone to the So licitor of the Treasury and offered to compromise with the Government by the payment of \$500 in cash. the United States Government sell its judgment against Col. Tow OCHILTEER for \$500? That is less than four cents on the dollar. Or will it attach his salary and alowances as Representative as fast as the become due? In the two years during which Col. Tom OCHILTREE will adorn the south wing of the Capitol his salary and allowances would pay nearly the whole of his debt.

The question is one of great importance the eloquent gentleman from Texas, and of considerable interest to the public generally

The Detection of the Dublin Assassing From the remarkable evidence given by the witness KAVANAGH on Saturday in Dublin, it appears that the murderers of Cavendish After the most strenuous investigations prosecuted with all the power of the British Government in every quarter of the globe, the perpetrators of the deed have been found in the very city in which the crime was committed, quietly and fearlessly engaged in the pursuit of their usual vocations. So well, indeed, had their secret been kept, and so confident were the assassins of impunity that some of them subsequently ventured t defy the law a second time by an assault whose object was to murder the juror FIELD for discharging, in accordance with his oath, a duty he was forced to undertake.

The first deduction to be drawn from thes extraordinary facts is that there has existed in the Irish capital a gang of cutthroats as thoroughly organized and as dangerous as are the Nihilists of St. Petersburg or the Thugs of India. Considering the number of accomplices in the Phoenix Park atrocity, and the tremendous efforts made for their detection, we must pronounce the security which they so long enjoyed an anomaly and a marvel in the history of crime. It b equally manifest from the success with which discovery was cluded that the number of men affiliated to the Assassination Society is small, and that measures were taken to seal the lips of all those privy to the plot against CAVENDISH and BURKE by making every one of them an accessory to its execution. It follows that the friends of Ireland may reasonably hope that when each of those who can be proved to have been actively or passively an accomplice in the butchery in Phonix Park has been brought to the gallows, the infamous gang to which they belonged will be broken up, and the foul and bloody work for

which it was organized will cease. It was high time that the actual authors of the Dublin assassinations should be unearthed. for while the responsibility for the crime remained unfixed the open or secret enemies of Mr. PARNELL and Mr. DAVITT have availed themselves of the wrath and indignation excited in every honest heart by the Phoenix Park enormity to discredit and paralyze the legitimate agitation for reform. Even among those who had shown themselves on the whole favorable to Ireland's demands for peasant proprietorship and home rule, not a few have been disposed to hold-in our opinion most unjustly—the utterances of Mr. Davitt and other speakers morally accountable for the results of conspiracy and violence. For example, our contemporary, the Herald, in commenting yesterday on the KAVANAGH testimony, averred that"there is much to be learned from the case by the Irish agitators. However strong their personal abhorrence of murder, their doctrines and their example were really the cause of the Phrenix Park assassinations." Our contemporary remarked further that even now the old violence of language still foams to the surface. Mr. DAVITT and his comrades cannot yet restrain their speech; and here to-day is Mr. O'DONNELL denounc-

ing the Lord Mayor of London as a turtle-fed boor." This is a specimen of the plausible but

occesses adopted and the effect produced ch political agitators as Mr. PARNELL nd Mr. Daverr, which since the Dublin murders have been current throughout the English and in a portion of the American press The affirmance is that because the succ of O'CONNELL, in their high-minded efforts to arouse their country to concerted action at the polls and to awaken England hersel to a sense of justice, have used plain an strong language, have called things by their right names, they are charge with the atrocious massacre in Phœnix Park. When Mr. PARNELL has termed alien landlordism a curse to Ireland, he was it is alleged, inciting his auditors to shoot their landlords; when Mr. DAVITT has char acterized the whole system of Castle govern ment as an abomination, he was virtuall; prompting the assassination of Cavennisi and BURKE. That we understand to be the contention of our contemporary. It does not lispute the facts, it does not deny that land lordism is a curse, or that Castle govern ment is an abominable system. But it would not have the facts proclaimed, lest in some indirect and mysterious way the promulg: tors should render themselves accountable for deeds of violence. We will not pause to inquire how the world is to be callghtened and reforms to be attained if reformers are to refrain from a clear, full, and emphatic por tralture of the grievances to be redressed Neither need we ask whether armies hav ever yet refrained from honorable battle be cause of a misgiving that a scoundrel crow o camp followers might rob and desecrate the bodies of the slain.

Such questions answer themselves: but we will inquire of our contemporary why it does not apply to a distinguished Catholic prelate the harsh judgment which it pronounce: so hastily on DAVITT and his friends In the same issue of the Herald-from which we have already quoted we find the tele graphed report of a letter from Archbishor CROKE, in which, after testifying to th widespread and fearful distress prevailing in the west of Ireland, the prelate adds that the country can never expect peace and plenty until it is rid of the yoke of a bloated and ruthless oligarchy." Well, now, has Mr MICHAEL DAVITY ever said anything more severe and incendiary than that? We ques tion, however, whether the Herald will express the opinion that Archbishop Croke is preaching murder by bis "doctrines and example;" that because he denounces the landed oligarchy of Ireland as "bloated and ruth less" he thereby impliedly sanctions the as sussination of any individual olienreh.

It was, by the way, the appalling suffering of the poor tenants in the western counties, attested by Archbishop CROKE, which that very absurd personage, the Lord Mayor of London, declined to relieve for no better reason than because the tenor of a speech de livered by Mr. O'DONNELL had not met with his approval. In the circumstances, we must say that Mr. O'DONNELL's bitter and scorp ful retort was fully merited, however we may condemn such epithets as swindler and glutton on the score of good taste. But when people are dying of starvation, those who try to save them have no time to prune their language.

North Pole Business.

A bill to compensate the officers and crev of the steamer Rodgers for the loss of their personal property when the vessel was destroyed in St. Lawrence Bay has receive the approval of the Secretary of the Navy. This bill adds one more to the list of expenses entailed on the Government by taking up and becoming responsible for a private en terprise of Arctic exploration.

When the Rodgers was bought, at large cost, and fitted out as a rescue steamer, few people may have expected her to save the Jeannette from destruction or to rescue her crew, if shipwrecked; but it did seem not unreasonable to hope that this second expedition would be able at least to bring back the vessel after having used it. This prove too ambitious an expectation; the Rodger took fire and was destroyed. One can imagine the distress of these mariners had it turned out that through the destruction of the Rodgers their comrades of the Jeannette had perished. Happily, it proved that the purning of the furmer vessel had no influen whatever on the fate of the wanderers she was sent in search of. Still, after having fitted up the Rodgers to go after the Jeannette, the Government had to fit up the Corwin to go after the wrecked crew of the Rodgers. The latter would now like to be reimbursed for the property they lost during the tire. This shows that when the Government goes into Arctic exploring, even whore it does not originate the scheme, the bills it s called upon to foot may-be many and rarious.

The Unconquerable Apaches.

The Mexicans evidently have a special aptitude for fighting Apaches. Repeatedly after United States troops have exhausted themselves in trying to catch these pests of the border, or have caught Tartars when they did find them, Mexican soldiers have taken up the chase and nearly destroyed the marauding band. To them were due the recent overthrows, in succession, of the forces of VICTORIO, NANA, and JUH.

Now, among the foothills of the Sierra Madre, the militia of Chihuahua have de feated a strong force of Apaches, while Mexican soldiers are also credited with a victory at Yecera, in which the Indians lost 160 men and many horses loaded with provisions and arms. The militia were simply a company of citizens from the tewn and district of Pemosachi.

The people of that part of Mexico have been used to fighting Apaches for three centuries, and apparently there is little to choose between their so-called civilized warfare and that of the savages, since they brought back sixteen scalps.

The Cost of Sugar and Flour.

During the debate in the Senate last week on the tariff, the question of the reduction of the tax on sugar being under immediate consideration, Mr. FRYE of Maine introduced curious table to show that the sugar of a family costs more than its bread. The best place in the world, he said, to find out the facts about the matter is a factory boarding house, for there the exact cost of everything n the way of expenditures is carefully kept. "Furthermore," said Mr. FRYE, with well-justified confidence, "the factory boarding house keeper does not waste any sugar."

He had sent down to Maine, and obtained the following statistics as to the cost of the sugar and the bread in eight factory boarding houses:

S. S. Ashworth. Potal.....372 \$3 43 ¥ \$404

It will be seen that all of these boarding house keepers except two report that their sugar and molasses cost them more than their flour. And very probably it would be found by families, if they kept an exact account of their expenditures, that the sugar bill was at least as large as that for flour.

advocated the reduction of the tariff, we raise in round numbers fifty millions of dol-lars from sugar duties. That is a dollar s head for the whole population, including vast number of savages and semi-savage who get no sugar at all. That tax he thought was too much, considering that sugar has become an article of necessity And so it does seem to be.

The frightful loss of life in the anthracit coal mines of Pennsylvania, where 300 persons lost their lives and more than a thousand were naimed last year, seems to have led to a deter mination that the Legislature of that State shall do something to protect the miners' lives After the frightful disaster at the Avondal mine in 1869, caused by the burning of a to construct openings through which the miners could escape in case the main shafe was obstructed. Since then, it is said, the mines have been pushed so rapidly in every direction that the openings intended to serv as means of escape have been left far in the tional source of danger rather than a means of safety. Legislation is called for which will remedy this state of things. Besides the dan-ger from burning breakers, the miners have to neounter perils from explosions of gas and gunpowder, the caving in of roofs, and the breaking of machinery, many of which, it averred, could be prevented by the exercise of proper care. Too much cannot be done to secure the safety of these men, whose daily labor is performed in situations and under circum tances that would unnerve many a man who lives in the free air on the earth's surface.

Wiggins has explained, and his explanation is as strikingly original as his style of storm prophecy. Having outdone the whole nord of weather prophets in the gigantic scale on which his world-scaring predictions were constructed, he now disdains their patty subterfuggs, and, seeing that he must fall, comes down with folat. This was to have been expected of a man who never troubled himself about a storm that was not able to shake up at least one whole continent. Wiccins says he overlooked the fact that the astronomical day begins at noon, while the ordinary day begins at midnight, and consequently the storm that he said would strike us just Friday fell on the Pacific Instead of the Atlantic. Wiscins seems to be subject to making this sort of mistake, for he says he did the same thing with another storm last October, but discovered the error in time to correct it. He philosophically adds that what is his loss is the world's gain. It seems that Vissans's great March tempest has, to use his words as reported, "hung over him like a nightmare." He feared that if his storm had come on Friday hundreds, anticipating the March storm, and beholding him as a prophet free from blunders, would have become insane through fear. Therefore Wissians is glad that he made this mistake. Fierce and fearful as are his prophecies, he is, after all, a tender-hearted man, who would rather let a storm eatch the world napping than have his warning help to

The Chinese, it is reported, are greatly exreised over the big comet which flamed in the morning skies last fall, and which a sharp eve can still detect under the Dog Star. The Emperor, it seems, thinks his officials have been deceiving him, and he is much disturbed over the comet's sudden appearance. If there are any official astronomers in China nowadays whose duty it is to look out for the approach of comets, they would do well to remember the fate of their ancient predecessors Hr and Ho. who were believed because an eclipse, which they should have foretold, occurred unannounced in consequence of their having neg lected their duties in riotous living.

The carelessness of the Raymond street all officials in the custody of the murderer JOHN KENNY is so patent, in view of the facdeveloped by the arrest of the man who gave him the pistol with which he took his life, tha Sheriff STROMAN has the plain duty before hin the orders requiring prisoners to be searched on leaving and entering the prison, and requiring visitors to prisoners accused of felon be scarched, it appears that the prisoner LAYDEN entered the jail on Thursday, the 1 of February, with a pistol in his pocket fo OHN KENNY, and was allowed to pass th teepers; that he handed KENNY the pisto through his ceil door, and talked about modes of suicide with him in the hearing of another prisoner: that KENNY took the weapon with him when he went to the court room next day; that he had it-a self-cocking reolver, fully loaded-in his pocket when Jus lee Moors sentenced him for life and warned nim to give up all hope of a pardon, and that he carried it back to the jail without detection at though he is said to have been searched again. In view of all these circumstances, it may be considered mere good fortune that John KENNY did not take more than his own life. He was t desperate man, at the threshold of a living hardly credible theory that he planned with such deliberation merely to commit suicide on the eve of going to Sing Sing for a life term.

While the rush of gav parties and dazzling palls palpably abates, in the fashionable world ifter Ash Wednesday, quieter entertainments ake their place. In the Lenten season lectures seem to flourish, and rhetorical readings are n vogue. Recreations with an intellectual or educational flavor have a fair field when the campant and glittering pastimes of the dancing hall and the dining room give way; and per-haps some of the auditors at these more sober intertainments regard them as a sort of penauce.

A project has been introduced into Congress for the appointment of a Commissioner. who is to visit all the countries of South America, and to find out what they would think of a railroad connecting them with the United States through the Isthmus of Panama. As the salary of this proposed Commissioner would be \$10,000; the bill would make a nice little berth for somebody; and if he could not collect \$10,000 worth of information on the subject the first year, no doubt he would be willing to keep on trying, at the same annual rate, until Congress should be perfectly satis-

While sundry Atlantic coast cities, like Philadelphia and Boston, have lately been complacently celebrating anniversaries of their oundation-two hundredth, two hundred and liftieth, and what not-one of our Western towns quietly comes to the front with a modest consciousness of superior antiquity, and proposes to commemorate its three hundred and thirty-third anniversary. Sante Fe is the venerable community in question, and July next the time appointed for its festival. The suggestion presents itself at first that this ceremony might wisely be deferred four months longer, since then it would be still more strictly 'tertio-millennial." as it is officially describedthat is, the 333's anniversary. But, in point of fact, not only is the exact day when the Spanish settlement of the place was effected unknown, but even the year is not wholly relieved from obscurity. Accordingly, midsummer of 1888 is a good shough date for Santa Fé's tertio millenary, unless some historic stumbling blocks should be found in the way. The town is on a plateau so high above the sea leve that July is a comfortable month there, even though the latitude of Santa Fo is the same as that of Raleigh. The late storms have not been utilized in

predicting the failure of the year's peach crop. in former seasons the total and irremediable lestruction of this crop was sometimes announced even in December, or by January at atest. Here we are near the middle of February, without any tidings of the annual ruin. There seems to be a lack of the old-time enter-According to Mr. Mongan of Alabama, who prise somewhere.

DEATH IN THE COAL MINES. Phree Hundred Persons Killed and More

SCHANTON, Feb. 11.-A few days ago, in diceting attention, through THE SUE, to a bill burg to make railroad and mine companies re sponsible for injuries sustained by their workmen, when such injuries are not brought on by cidentally the number of persons killed and in-jured in this mining district during the past year; and this grim phase of a great industry attracted so much attention among the newspapers of the State that I have taken the killed and maimed throughout the anthracite region in 1882. It is somewhat startling to think that during the last year no less than 300 persons were killed and more than 1,000 injured in various ways at the peaceful calling of mining anthracite coal in Pennsylvania. Yet this is the thrilling record. There are six anthracite mine inspectors in Pennsylvania treasury, to see that the provisions of the Mine Ventilation act which was brought forth by the Avondale horror are enforced. These inspectors are stationed in various parts of the the figures which I have quoted. Only one o the reports given below is unofficial, namely that of Inspector Ryan of the Shamokin dis trict. The following is the frightful record o the anthracite region for 1882: Killed. Inju

Inspector Williams of Wilkesbarre re-ports. Inspector Broderick of Hazleton reports Inspector Gay of Pottaville reports... Inspector Mauchline of Shenandoah district reports. tor Hyan of Shamokin (estimated).

reports.
Inspector Ryan of shamokin (estimates), 59

Totals.

Tota

and complying rigidly with the provisions of the Mine Ventilation law, to lessen the misery which sends a surge of sorrow annually along the coal valleys of Pennsylvania. Falls of roo might be greatly lossened by using sufficient timber in propping, explosions of gus could be averted by a careful use of the safety lamp, and the deaths occurring from explosions of powder are almost inexcusable. A more uniform system of working the mines on the part of the companies would also reduce the death record of the region. It is either a headlong rush to supply the demand or a suspension to create one. When the mines are worked, everything is strained to the very highest tension, and the wonder is that there are not more accidents. Working more regularly, taking time to keep the mines in proper condition as their development progresses, and paying some head to the lives of the Industrious and courageous population that gives life and energy to the most important industry in the State, would accomplish the same results in the market, and leave less broken hearts in the track of the anthracite trade.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Feb. 10.-There is ever evidence that the present Legislature of Penn-sylvania intends to do something in the way of many cylls that now exist in the authracite regions of the State. In the House, Mr. Hines of this county, representing a mining con-stituency, has already signalled his intentions; soon introduce a bill creating a Commission to make inquiry into the Ventilation law, and report by bill or otherwise what amendments are necessary to carry out its purpose-the protection of the lives and limbs of those who work is the dark chambers of the collieries. It is proposed to make this Commission up of the mine inspectors, six practical coal miners, and

six operators to be selected by the Governor.

The present Ventilation law was the outcom of the terrible calamity at Avondale in 1869 where scores of miners lost their lives. Up t

where score or miners jost their lives. Who that time none of the collieries were provided with any means of escape from a fire at the top. The men went down the main shaft and came out of the miner the same way. There were no safety openings. At Avondaic the giant breaker which stood directly over the deep shaft took fire, and, as a natural sequence, drew every breath of air out of the chambers below, where more than one hundred men were at work. They were all suffocated. That calamity occurred nearly fourteen years ago. The frightful lesson had its effect upon the succeeding Logislature, and what is known as the Ventilation law was passed. That compelled the coal companies to construct openings through which the miners might escape if shut off from passing up the main shaft by any disaster. Since those openings were made, however, there is not a colliery anywhere that has not extended its workings far beyond what were the boundaries a dozon years ago, in some instances running over a mile ahead of them. If it is supposed that the companies have made new openings from time to time as they were noeded, the idea is a great mistake. They have done no such thing. The ancient opening stands, although in the great misjority of instances of no practical value whatever, and there can be no prosecution of any violation of the law.

There are dozens of big mines in this locality whose the breakers are built just as the Avondale broaker was, directly over the main shaft, if any one of thom should happen to take fire while the menare down below the results would be horrible enough. The old safety opening, instead of being a hain in time of danger, would only add to the difficulties by creating a draft through which the smoke would be drawn into the chambers in suffocuting volumes, But, aside from this, the mines with the passage of time become more gaseous. To illustrate: Twelve years ago, when the prosent ventilation in the bodieries they were a supplying the work of the copinity of the corporation where were the collect

norance and lack of knowledge of the English inaguage have been sources of great annoyances to the mine bosses, who are charged with instructing mine workers in the dangers that throaten at all times. By signs alone are the Hungarians made to partly understand the Hungarians made to partly understand the dangers of their embloyment, and even these are frequently of no avail. They daily persist in going into all sorte of danger, and fully three-fourths of the gas explosions occurring last year in the mines of this district are traceable to the ignorance of the Hungarian laborers. Strange to say, at the beginning of the year a great many of these same Hungarians were themselves applying the fuse and shot of a regular miner.

ROME, Jan. 20.—Baccolli, the Italian Minister of Public Instruction, has taken possession of the Convent of Rissoll in Florence, and installed a lay teaches superior, putting saids the suns. Saccelli was a student of the Jeautz. When Rome was under pacel soy creignty he used to receive communion nearly every morning. Now he seems to put away nuns and promote sceptical professors. He has just placed a moted int-del in the Board of Superior Instruction. Some of his school inspectors are consummate iconoclasts, and there are instances in which they have knocked off the fingera and noses of crneifixes and placked out the eyes of Madonnas and saints. He seems to take delight in doing things that he knows will displease the Pope. Still, outwardly he is a firm believer. He says his rosary, and he is on the best of terms with highrother, Mgr. Raccells, a very clever prelate, who takes action ex officio against heretics, infidels, and noted sinners. Were the Pope King of Rome, many of the acts of Baccelli Minister would be officially denounced by Baccell Monsignor. The making of excavations is a favorite occupation of the Minister. He has pulled down houses around the Agrippa Monument, and has leolated the Pantheon. He has now tearing in the Forten. He ascending in the gers and noses of crucifixes and plucked out the eyes o

epidemic in that quarter. A young married couple from Germany were recently A young married couple from Germany were recently attacked by a robber in a railroad frain us the way to Genos. The brigand boarded the train at Bursails. In the tunnel at Mount Glovi he drew a revolver and tried to rob the German, who manfully defended himself. The thick had fired four shots, when the German snatched the weapon from his hands. The villain then drew a degree and stabled the German five times. The venuels dagger and stabbod the German five times. The would dagger and stabbed the terman five times. The wounds are dangerons. The bride's cries alarmed a brakeman, who signalied the engineer to stop, and the assassin was caught. The bride was wounded while trying to help her husband. The bridegroom had a large sum of money in his pockets. He was taken to the Hotel Londres in Genos, and the would be assassin was committed for trial. The local press demand American cars communicating with each offer and alarm helic.

with each other and alarm bells.

An attempt to blackmail Prince Torionia, has resulted in the arrest of the blackmailer. Months ago he sent a letter directing the Prince to put a package of a million in bank notes in a certain window in the palace of Car-dinal Hobenlohe, in the Piazza Maggiore The Prince turned his letter over to the police. They placed a pack-age of paper in the designated window, but no one came ened to blow up his palace. The trap was again baited Despite the vigitance of the authorities, the package dis appeared. Inquiry, however, revealed the blackmailer in the person of William Nobill. He is the son of Cardina Hobeniohe's steward. The boy said that he had been misled by had companions. He is only 20 years old. Baron Cetti, the new Bavarian Ambassador to the Vat-ican, was received by the Pope on the 18th. After his recoution he paid a state visit to St. Peter's Church. It is customary for accredited. Ambasgadors to the Holy Ses to visit this church in state after the presentation of heir credentials. They also visit the Dean of the Sacre-College, Dr. Pietro.

Falleroni, the Italian Bradlaugh, has been expelle

from Parliament. His seat was declared vacant and a new election ordered. He will probably be reflected. Count Zeloni, former owner of the Palazzo Albani, and a connotasent of artistic bric a brac, is dead. His love of the antique cost him two fortunes. He med in a hor pital. He spoke English, French, and Spanish fluently ital. He spoke English, French, and to take place on the The national festival, which used to take place on the first Sunday in June, will hereafter be celebrated on March 21, King Humbert's birthday. The change was not made to humor the King, but to afford winter visitors an opportunity of sceing the fireworks. Unhap pily, the 21st of March this year falls in Holy Week, and

dealing harshly with Roman Catholic priests. The Abb Vierzykousky, curate of St. Barbe, at Vassone, has been sentenced to three years' deportation for blessing the marriage of two Uniates of Bodolie. This news has a

White marching under the Italian flag, the young con-scripts of Florence made an Overdank demonstration. It resulted in a fight with the soldiers. The beds in the parracks were fired, and the soldiers were forced to de

ion of the death of Victor Emmanuel on the day specific by the authorities. The church services were deferred to the 16th. A great catafalque was borne into the Pantheon, covered with flowers. A garland presente by the ex-Khedive of Egypt was exceedingly rich. Musurus Bey, in his red fez, sat among the diplomats in the body of the church. A high requiem mass was celebrated by Royal Chaplain Augino, assisted by deacon sub-deacons, and the canous of the church. The Life duard stood around the aitur and the catafalque. The seramony seemed more theatric than religious, owing to the behavior of people who seithm go to church Under the order of the King a funeral service was held : t have the order of the King a tuneral service was field in the old National church of the Piedmontese, La Chiesa del Sudarro, on the 17th. The royal family and royal house hold were the only affendants. High mass was celebrated by Anzino, who is also rector of this church. The

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In your paper of to-day there is reported a resolution passed by the Board of Aldermen changing the name of lighth avenue fronting Central Park to "Central Park West." There ought to be a limit to all this cockneyism. The owners of that call them "The Clarendon," "The Glad stone," and "The Palmerston." They have a perfect right to call them what they will, but I doubt if they would adopt such names as "The O'Connell." O'Flaherty," and other Celtic nomenclatures that might carry the memory of their forefathers to the future. Loudon gives many of her great streets names that do not express their character, whether they may be streets, lanes, avenues, &c., such as Pail Mall (pr nounced Pell Mell). Holborn, High Holborn, and man nounced Pell Mell). Holborn, High Holborn, and mothers. Why should we follow English customs others. Why should we follow English customs and compel our vast visiting population to grope in the dark and get last in their endeavors to discover the whereabouts of our greately? The simplicity of numerical names to our streats should not be deviated from. All strangers appraciate it, and those people who advocate a change such as that referred to are not residents, but simply people who imagine a sneshish title to a street will enhance the value of their property.

In connection with the above, let me state that giving the name of "Boulevard" to our great avenues ought to be abodished; there is no sense int. The name is only applicable to the history and surroundings of such a city as Paris.

By what legal authority was such a name adopted?

John McClays, 29 Nassau street.

Wiggins Letting Up on the March Storm. OTTAWA, Feb. 11.-Wiggins, the Canadian weather prophet, and just discovered that he has erred in his calculations concerning the March storm. He still maintains that the storm will occur, but not to such an alarming extent as previously predicted. It will only cover a narrow area. His storm predicted for Peb. 9 did not come to time owing to miscalculation.

Gould's Hired Man.

By idle hopes no longer fooled, Grant settles down to solid work; The would-be Cosar serves as clerk To all absorbing, great Jay Gould, Whose golden rain ambition's heat hath cooled.

The public fund, the private pup, On Grant have freely been bestowed: Pensions and offices have flowed With steady stream about his cup. Which, somehow, never seems to be filled up.

The pension and the army list know, to their cost, the periold man. The worn and weary veteral Who cannot keep his itching flet From out the nation's fob, but still, like Twist, Ories out for more and ever more Of gold and stocks and bonds and bills

Vhose dreams an endless passion fills That gloats upon the yellow gore Which gushes from the veins of golden ore The spurious Casar's ghost is laid, The spectre of that dread Third Term, That made the halting Half Breed squirm,

The warrior sets his heart on trade, And beats into a pen his battle blade. Where bleak nose nipping north winds blow About Texcuco's silver stream,

Where fierce volcances glow and gleam From bonnets of eternal snow, Perched proudly on the heights of Mexico, Where Monteguma's city lies Along the great Gulf's sunny marge

Soon Grant will go in Trescott's charge, His master's schemes to advertise, And raise a crop of railroad subsidies. Not now with regal state and show, As went around the globe he went

I. as an ex President, Can be expect this year to go. A joint Commissioner, to Mexico. He is not, like dark Cortez, bent

A nation to subdue and queil; He only goes to buy and sell. to these small bounds ats fame is pent; Me's glad to be Jay Gould's commercial "gout."

-George C. Miln, ex-preacher and present

Shakespearean actor, fell and broke a rib while playing Hamlet at Richmond, Ind.

—The deposit of salt just discovered in the

Wyoming valley underlies a tract fifteen miles long and two or three wide. It has a depth of from 1,200 to 1,000 feet. The vein at Warsaw is seventy feet thick. -M. Pasteur reports to the Paris Academy of Medicine that he possesses four dogs which he has in-oculated in such a manner that they cannot become mad. As man can take hydrophobia from a mad snimel only, the Professor believes that the vaccination nines will put an end to rables.

-Among the revelations made in the investigation of the aluminous at Pottaville, Pa., is the fact that many thousands of dollars, spent ostensibly for outdoor relief of the poor, went to reward personal friends of the Commissioners and to make political capital. Orders for whiskey and cigars often amounted to \$300 in a day.

-The late D. M. Bennett, editor of the Truta Sector, was interested in spiritualism, and he said that if he found it possible to return after death, or to in any editor of the paper says that each bears conclusive evi-dence of spuriousness. -Signor Torrelli has published a map

showing the malarious districts of Italy and demonstrating that the chief causes of malarin there are the spread of railways and the destruction of forests. The railway embankments interfere with natural drainage, and the absence of forests causes the earth to become so dry and porous that it absorbs large quantities of water, which give rise to heavy and long continued evap -Dr. Francis states in a paper read before

the Harveian Society, London, that the habit of tea drinking at and between meals, now so common in Eng-land, renders people peculiarly liable to neuralgia. A lady in England wrote to her husband in India: "If you very ill." She asked her medical attendant to write also, which he did as follows: "Stay where you are; if your wifs would only take less tea she would be quite well."

—Twenty-five Chinaman, killed by the

powder explosion at Berkelsy, Cal., were buried with considerable parade. On arriving at the cemetery, it was found that permits had been issued for the burial of twenty-four, and the sexton would admit that number only. Which body should be excluded as the twenty-fifth? The question was left to the crowd of live Chinamers and they satisfy it by warried a feet to the crowd of live Chinamers. men, and they settled it by means of a terrific fight, in

-Charles Reado's latest dramatic venture is the production of Tennyson's "Dora," in a scief form, assounced by him as a "simple bit of nature." He good piece of construction for stage purposes, and acted it a perfect manner, the piece is a failure, owing in part

-Bronson Alcott, who had an apoplectic attack last October, has regained a moderate degree of health. One effect of his illness has been to weaken his memory of words, and though he understands perfectly what is said to him, and knows what he would reply, he sannot usually express blinself with clearness. Sinc sured him that he looks more like an old Greek philose pher than formerly. His latest and probably last verse are two sonnets suggested by a visit last fall to his native

-The word "masher," an Americanism to describe a man who glories in his ability to win the admiration of women, has come into use in London, where that kind of human being is plentiful. "He is a fungua." says the London Truth; "not an honest mushre even a respectable tondstool, but a wet, spongy, and even a respectable tonuston, but and poisonous soil wholesome emanation from a rotten and poisonous soil Ridiculously overdressed, starched up to the very eye lids, smothered like a girl in jewelry, decked out with secome an observed form of social cold veal."

-The supply of hard and decorative timber for mechanical and artistic purposes will ingthe near future, it is thought, be largely obtained from Brazii, where the sources of these choice and valuable materials are known to be well nigh inexhaustible. It is mirably fitted by their hardness, tints, and beautiful grains, for the finest cabinet work. One of these, familiarly known as tortoise shell wood, and believed to be the most precious wood in the world, is found in large quantities along the tributaries of the upper Amazon where the water can be easily used as a me

-A book upon beer has lately been pub-lished by Mr. Ferdinand Reiber, a native of Strasburg under the title of "Etudes Gambrinales," beer having been invented, as the story goes, by Gambrinus, s legendary king. Though the popularity of that beverage on the Continent dates from but a century back, it seems destined to conquer Europe, and to drive out wim that it has already invaded the south of France, and tha ous. Beer, it seems, is the only liquor which one can

-The glory is departing from the Ohio valley as the home of the grape, and the Cincianal Enquirer fears that no future poet will sing of it as Put in Bay are affected by a species of blight, and ex-ports have been unable to fluid the cause of a cure. This failure is likely to take away from Cincinnati a peculiar feature of its business in beverages. There are numer ons houses kept by German wine makers, who study but buy grapes in quantities, pross the juice, and for, ment it on their own premises, selling their own make along with fibine wines. They do a wholesale as well as a retail trade, and all in a quiet, unpretentious fashion. The prices are low, and the wine pure, so that imports. tion cannot take the place of the home manufa-

-Mob violence is by no means peculiar to this country. The village of Hounslow, near London was lately the scene of something not unlike an American lynching. This was an incident of the Edwarden Whitmarsh case. Dr. Edwardes, a popular young physician, committed suicide, leaving a letter which stated that a lying charge of dishonorable conduct had been brought against him by a woman; that Dr. Whitmarsh his partner, had taken advantage of it to crowd him out of a thriving practice, and concluded with the words, "May God curse Michael Whitmarsh." Edwardes had been popular, and Whitmarsh was disliked. Day after day there was rioting in Hounslow, and Whitmarsh was forced to hide himself and all his family. He was burned in effigy, bricks were hurled through his windows until not a pane of glass was left, his ifrougham was demol-ished, and preparations were being made to burn his residence, when the police finally restored order.

... The business in dressed mont has grown to enormous proportions in Chicago. More than 7.080.008 hogs and 2.000,000 head of bref cattle have been simily tered there in a year. These are conveyed to the stock yards by eighteen different railronds. The killing is now senally done by shooting the animal just back of the ear, and machinery does nearly all the work of dressing It is only three to five minutes from the time a bulloci s shot until he is quartered ready for the heebox. The furnishing of fresh beef to the Eastern market begas only a few years ago, when one firm undertook to send choice cuts to several hotels near Chicago, and found that the plan worked well enough to prove the feasibility of shipments to more distant points. There were delays and losses at first, but a suitable refrigerator car was soon invented, and now there are no difficulties in the traffic. After the best parts of the carcass are shipped the coarse meat is carried or made into sausage, the blood dried, and the bones ground for fertilizer, the horns sold to combinakers, and every scrap furned to account in some way. "We are sciling the hest loins for eleven cents a pound," says a leading shuighterer, "and adding a cent for treightage, they cost the New York dealer twelve cents. That is for the very best quality

-Boucleault believes that Shakespeare was making his dramas than their immediate production on, the stage. He has a theory, for example, as to how "Hamlet" was brought out. Business in the theater was bad, and nothing seemed to interest the audiences. "Thave it!" said Shakespeare, "there is the old play of Hamlet, which used to be a favorite. It's out of data and needs freshening up. I'll take it home and see what can be done with it." So he hunts up a copy, and goes to work with pen and scissors. He is a swift workman and it is not long before he returns to the theatre. The parts are given out. Up comes the actor who is cost as Polonius. "See here," he says to Shakespeare, ") ou have killed my part entirely. All the speeches for which I used to get a laugh or a round of applause you have cut clean out, and in their place you have given me a lot of moralizing staff that I'll never be able to do anything with. If you can't give me something to get a laugh with I won't play the part, that's all." Shakespears shows how he has changed the nature of the character, and argues that to make Polonius a comic role would destroy the design of the play in its new form. But the actor will not yield, and Shakespeare, his patience ut-terly exhausted, says. "Well, have it your own way and speak the old lext, but for heaven's sake use oping in the first act." This is settled upon, and that is how Poissous, who, in the first act is a dignified and wise old gentleman, giving Lacries the angest of mivice, becomes a "wretched, raan, intruding foul" thereafter, until Hamlet wisely kills him off. "(6), I can see it all, "east Boncicault, " as plainly as it I had been present and I can trace out in Shakespears an plays changes similarly